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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/681,730	10/08/2003	Girish Kumar Muralidharan	137299/YOD GEMS:0242	6712

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EXAMINER

AUGUSTINE, NICHOLAS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/681,730	Applicant(s) MURALIDHARAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Nicholas Augustine	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/02/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 10-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is not disclosed in the specification that non-statutory subject matter (transmissions, signals, waves, etc) are excluded from being a computer readable medium.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-5,7-8,10-14,16-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Brown et al (US 2003/0046548 A1).

As for independent claim 1 and 10: Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for limiting remote display of a local system user interface (par. 48, lines 1-5), comprising the steps/means for:

designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions (pg. 4, par. 50); modifying the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to a remote operator workstation for display (pg. 4, par. 50); and displaying the modified interface regions at the remote operator workstation, wherein the modified interface regions visually differ when displayed from respective unmodified interface regions (par. 51, lines 7-12).

As for dependent claims 2, 11 and 24, Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus comprising the steps/means for: wherein each limited remote access regions is designated with one of two or more levels of remote access (default, medium, high) corresponding to different degrees of modification such that the differentially modified interface regions may be visually distinguished when displayed at the remote operator workstation (pg. 7, par. 91 and 92).

As for dependent claims 3, 12 and 25, Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus comprising the steps/means for: wherein one level of remote access corresponds to a modified interface region comprising a solid visual region when displayed such that no text or image is visible (Fig. 9A).

As for dependent claims 4, 13 and 26, Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus comprising the steps/means for: wherein one level of remote access corresponds to a modified interface region comprising a visually obscured region when displayed through which text or images may be visible (Par. 51, lines 10-12).

As for dependent claims 5, 14 and 27, Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus comprising the steps/means for: wherein the visually obscured region comprises one or more of a hatching, a shading, and a tinting (par. 51, lines 10-12; to grey out a button visually causes a shading or tinting appearance which is well known in the art).

As for independent claims 7 and 16 Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for limiting remote display of a local system user interface (par. 48, lines 1-5), comprising the steps/means for: designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions (pg.4, par. 50); identifying one or more restricted remote inputs in an input stream to a local system using the system user interface, wherein the one or more restricted remote inputs are generated via interaction at a remote operator workstation with the one or more limited remote access interface regions; and removing the one or more restricted remote inputs from the input stream to the local system (par. 48, last six lines and par.51). A

remote system downloads a webpage interface from a local host/server system, webpage is read by the browser application on the remote system, user sends an input stream containing access to functions associated with content in webpage interface, browser application processes ARI tag and removes functions on the webpage interface which the user does not have permissions for.

As for dependent claims 8 and 17, Brown teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus comprising the steps/means for: wherein each limited remote access region is designated with one of two or more levels of remote access (pg.7, par. 91-92).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6,9,15,18-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Banks et al (6,603,494 B1) in view of Brown et al (2003/0046548 A1).

As for dependent claims 6 and 15, Banks teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for limiting remote operation

of a local system user interface, comprising the steps/means for: the method as recited in claim 7 and 16, wherein the system user interface comprises a medical imaging system user interface, (col. 9, lines 34-39). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

As for dependent claims 9 and 18, Banks teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for limiting remote operation of a local system user interface, comprising the steps/means for: the method as recited in claim 7 and 16, wherein the system user interface comprises a medical imaging system user interface and the local system comprises a medical imaging system (col. 9, lines 34-39 and Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

As for independent claims 19 and 28: Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system for a medical imaging system (Fig. 1, 100), comprising the elements: a local medical imaging system (col. 7,

Art Unit: 2179

lines 47-48), comprising: an imager (139-142,152) configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image (Fig.1, col.9, lines 10-11); one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager (Fig.1, col.8, lines 36-40); one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits (Fig.1, 122,128,132,col. 8, lines 28-52); at least one local operator workstation (107) configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals (115) and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices (110) (Fig.1, col.8, lines 3-15); a remote operator workstation (100) configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals via a network connection(116) (Fig.1, col. 7, lines 47-65). Banks fails to teach a limited communication module. Brown teaches a limited communication module located on at least one of the network connection and the local medical imaging system, wherein the limited communication module may be configured to designate one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions and to modify the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to the remote operator workstation such that the modified interface regions visually differ from the respective unmodified interface regions when displayed (note the discussion of claim 1 above). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client

Art Unit: 2179

devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

Note the discussion of Banks in view of Brown above in claims 19 and 28 for the following dependent claims.

As for dependent claims 20 and 29, Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system comprising the steps/means for: the remote viewing system as recited in claim 19 and 28, further comprising one or more data processing circuits configured receive and further process the one or more signals from the one or more data acquisition circuits (Fig.1, 122, 128,129 and col. 8, lines 36-40).

As for dependent claims 21 and 30, Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system comprising the steps/means for: the remote viewing system as recited in claim 19 and 28, wherein the local medical imaging system comprises one of a CT imaging system, an MRI imaging system, a tomosynthesis system, an EBT imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging system (col. 1, lines 19-26).

As for dependent claims 22 and 31, Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system comprising the steps/means for:

Art Unit: 2179

the remote viewing system as recited in claim 19 and 28, Banks fails to teach limited communication module. Brown teaches wherein the limited communication module comprises routines executed on at least one of the system control circuits and the local operator workstation (, par.75, lines 1-6 and par.37, lines 1-5). Access is determined at the server and functionality is disabled locally. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

As for dependent claims 23 and 32, Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system comprising the steps/means for: the remote viewing system as recited in claim 19 and 28, Banks fails to teach limited communication module. Brown teaches wherein the limited communication module comprises routines executed by at least one server in the network connection (pg.6, par.75, lines 1-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

As to dependent claim 33, Banks fails to teach remote levels of access.

Brown teaches the remote input system as recited in claim 28, wherein the limited communication module designates each limited remote access region with one of two or more levels of remote access (pg.7, par.91-92). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

As to independent claim 34, Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system for a medical imaging system (Fig. 1,100), comprising the elements: a local medical imaging system (col. 7, lines 47-48), comprising: an imager (139-142,152) configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image (Fig.1, col.9, lines 10-11); one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager (Fig.1, col.8, lines 36-40); one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits (Fig.1, 122,128,132,col. 8, lines 28-52); at least one local operator workstation (107) configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals (115) and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices (110) (Fig.1, col.8, lines 3-15); a remote operator workstation (100) configured to receive at least the one or

Art Unit: 2179

more processed signals via a network connection(116) (Fig.1, col. 7, lines 47-65). Banks fails to teach a limited communication module. Brown teaches a means for visually limiting a user interface displayed on the remote operator workstation relative to the user interface displayed on the local operator workstations (par. 37). The remote operator workstation receives an updated interface with disabled function controls, which are the same function controls seen on the server/host workstation. (ARI). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

As to independent claim 35, Banks teaches a remote viewing system and corresponding remote input system for a medical imaging system (Fig. 1,100), comprising the elements: a local medical imaging system (col. 7, lines 47-48), comprising: an imager (139-142,152) configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image (Fig.1, col.9, lines 10-11); one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager (Fig.1, col.8, lines 36-40); one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits (Fig.1, 122,128,132,col. 8, lines 28-52); at least one local operator workstation (107) configured to receive at least the one or more

processed signals (115) and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices (110) (Fig.1, col.8, lines 3-15); a remote operator workstation (100) configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals via a network connection(116) (Fig.1, col. 7, lines 47-65). Banks fails to teach a limited communication module. Brown discloses a means for limiting the communication from the remote operator workstation to the one or more control circuits (par.37). Once the user is established with a limited access rights the user will not be able to communicate with a printer, etc. (ARI). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method and apparatus of Brown into the system of Banks, this is true because each of the remote client devices use an interface to interact with data on the network for remote operations (par.33-34).

Conclusion

- Satheesan et al (US 6,934,356 B1) – System and method for dynamic generation of a single user interface for displaying and entry of medical imaging configuration data.
- Lounsberry et al (US 6,325,540 B1) – Method and apparatus for remotely configuring and servicing a field replacement unit in a medical diagnostic system.
- Miller et al. (US 5,550,968) – Method and system for providing access security to controls in a graphical user interface.

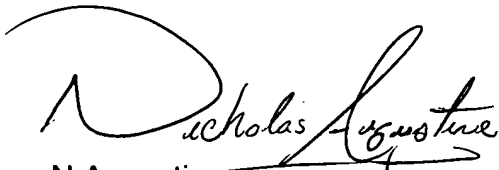
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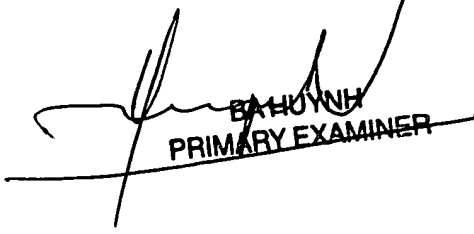
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Augustine whose telephone number is 571-272-1056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 7:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nicholas Augustine
Examiner
Art Unit 2179


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9/21/2006


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PRIMARY EXAMINER